

November 16, 2011

Dear XXXX,

On behalf of the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs in Doha, Qatar, I am writing to extend an invitation for you to join us as a moderator at our 5th International Shafallah Forum January 22nd – 24th, 2012. Under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the Forum, entitled *Crisis, Conflict and Disability: Ensuring Equality*, will focus on the impact of natural disaster, conflict and humanitarian crises on persons with disabilities.

The Forum has become one of the most anticipated, well-attended, and high-level events in the disability field. Our focus will be on the marginalization of persons with disabilities during humanitarian crises including recent natural disasters in Japan, Haiti, Pakistan, and the United States, as well as the ongoing crises and conditions in refugee camps in the Middle East and Africa.

We hope that you will lend your expertise to moderate a panel titled “The Role of the Military in Disaster Response,” which will examine the history of military leadership in rescue and recovery operations and discuss how disaster planners can better prepare for identifying, evacuating, and accommodating the disabled when disaster strikes.

The Shafallah Forum is recognized internationally for its cutting-edge content and renowned participants. The event is regularly attended by dozens of First Ladies and noted dignitaries, leading disability advocates, field experts and academics from around the world. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Sir James David Wolfensohn, former President of the World Bank, have given remarks at previous Forums. Baroness Valerie Amos, UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, will give this year’s keynote address.

Our unique event is the premiere gathering of its kind where attendance is complementary and by invitation only. We hope that you will be able to join us in Doha this January. Please RSVP via e-mail to Katie Hill, our Assistant Media Director, at katieh@brownlloydjames.com or by telephone at +1 212 486 1469 should you have any questions and to confirm your attendance.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hassan Ali Bin Ali
Chairman, Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs

Mrs. Cherie Blair
Forum Co-Chair